

Social and Linguistic Research into the
Situation in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek, Karakol and
Osh Cities (Special Issue Dedicated to
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Social and Linguistic Research into the Situation in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek, Karakol and Osh Cities^{*}

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1 Introduction

Collapse of the USSR (1991) has changed not only the destiny of its society and people, but also the destiny of the Russian language. In the epoch of the Soviet Union, particularly in the period so-called "Cold War", the Russian language had the status of being a compulsory subject for school education as the first foreign language in many socialist countries. In fact, with the drastic change of the political and economic systems in the Soviet Union the social value of the Russian language have declined considerably. For instance, in 1991, even the friendliest country to the USSR, Bulgaria had a sharp reduction in the number of people studying from 1 million to only 100,000 people. Thus from being the compulsory

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subject of the socialistic education system Russian has changed into simply one of other foreign languages studied as an elective subject. At the present time in the high school education system of the former East Europe countries, Russian is ranked after some leaders such as English, French and German among foreign languages. In the Czech Republic the number of people learning Russian stood sixth among foreign languages.

However, as to the former republics of Soviet Union, the situation on the Russian language is completely different. The Russian Federation being an exception, in the 14 other new independent countries the title language, i.e. the language of the nation being a major language and usually spoken by more than half of the population of the country has been recognized as the state language, and Russian has been superseded in the official sphere¹. Furthermore, in just three countries (Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) Russian has received the legal status of being either the second state language or the official language. However, even in those three countries the roles of Russian have been gradually reduced. With the creation of the new republics and the strengthening and expansion of the state language being considered as inseparable concepts, negative fears of these coun-

¹In the Soviet period in 1978 constitutions of Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, Armenia Soviet Socialist Republic and Georgia Soviet Socialist Republic provided that each main national language (i.e. Azerbaijan language, Georgia language, Armenian language) was the state language. At that time there were no regulations about state language at the Soviet Federation level. At the republic level only three Caucasian countries regulated own state language. In the USSR to give Russian the legal status as the state language was tabooed because of existence of Lenin's Nationality Policy and the non-Russian nationalities being very sensitive to the assimilation policy of Soviet Union.

In the midst of collapse of Eastern Europe countries in the latter half of the 1980's Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, which was a part of USSR, adopted the Law on languages on January 18th, 1989, and declared the Estonian language as the state language. Due to this turning point 11 Soviet Socialist Republics except Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic selected respective national language as the state language mainly in synchronization with their independent ethnic movement until 24th May in 1990 (Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic). RSFSR adopted the Law on languages of nationalities in RSFSR on 25th October in 1991, and decided Russian to be its state language. Incidentally, on 24th April in 1990, USSR already adopted the Law on languages of nationalities in USSR, and Russian obtained the first time in history the legal status as the federation state language. Cf. Крючкова Т.Б. (2005:10-17).

tries falling under the influence of the Russian Federation have surfaced once again.

The problem is that numerous members of the Russian diaspora living in territories of the former Soviet Union suffer from a certain social discrimination caused by their inadequate knowledge of their local state language. It especially concerns cases when receiving their civil rights and employment depends on knowledge of the state language. For example, in Latvia and Estonia, as a main prerequisite for acquiring citizenship high knowledge of the state language is legally required. As a consequence, it has been observed that Russian population can't adapt their living conditions in the new States.

Although in republics of the former USSR the general tendency of a “cooling off” of Russian language has been observed, Russian until now has been the language of interethnic dialogue and is widely used in the daily life of the population. If we consider the economic, educational, and scientific activities of the CIS countries, we can say with certainty that the value of Russian language is much above English.

2 Change in various structures of the Central Asian society

The purpose of the given article is to reveal two main points as exemplified by the countries of Central Asia, especially the Kyrgyz Republic. The first point is “Change in various structures of the society as a result of changes of the structure of the population.” The second point is “Results of our research of the language consciousness of Kyrgyz youth.”

First of all, we shall consider percentage distribution of the population of Central Asian countries. As shown in Table 1, More than 40% of the population of the Central Asian countries lives in Uzbekistan (41.2%), in Kazakhstan more than 30% (32.2%), and in sum more than 70% of the population of the Central Asia region lives in these two countries.

Table 1: Population of Central Asian countries and the percentage of the population of Central Asia

	Countries	Population	Percentage
1	Uzbekistan	21,969,000	41.2%
2	Kazakhstan	17,169,000	32.2%
3	Tajikistan	5,684,000	10.7%
4	Kyrgyzstan	4,512,000	8.5%
5	Turkmenistan	3,949,000	7.4%
Total		53,283,000	100%

Note. From Yokote S. (1995)

Table 2: Percentage of Russian diaspora, title nation and other nationalities in the Central Asian Countries

	Countries	Russian diaspora	Title nation	Other nationalities
1	Kazakhstan	36.5%	43.2%	20.3%
2	Kyrgyzstan	21.5%	52.4%	26.1%
3	Turkmenistan	9.8%	73.3%	16.9%
4	Uzbekistan	8.3%	71.4%	20.3%
5	Tajikistan	7.6%	62.3%	30.1%

As it can be seen from Table 2, Kazakhstan is the only country that has relatively equal percentages of the Russian population and representatives of the title nation². In other countries the local main national population, i.e. the title nation, clearly exceeds the Russian diaspora.

²The data of Table 2 is of 1995, but, according to the website data of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/kazakhstan/index.html>, access date: 29.09.2008) based on Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the ratio of the Kazakh population in 2006 (58.9%) increased more than 15% in comparison with 1995's Kazakh population rate (43.2%). Oppositely, the ratio of the Russian population in 2006 (25.9%) reduced more than 10%, as compared with 1995's Russian population ratio (36.5%). In our opinion, this change in population ratio is caused mainly by two reasons:

In all countries the percentage of Russians is relatively low. From this point of view it is possible to draw a conclusion that the representatives of Russian nationality during the Soviet period made up the largest part of the population, but nowadays in the Central Asian countries it already has become a minority³. That is, the interethnic hierarchy of the Soviet epoch has changed. Here it is possible to specify the following changes occurred:

- 1. The Russian population became a minority;**
- 2. Representatives of the title respective nations became a majority; and**
- 3. The national structure between the local national majority (i.e. the title nation) and numerous minorities strengthened.**

The above stated changes have caused the further social and political fluctuations in each society, among which it is possible to note the following:

- 1. A tendency to expand the influence of the title nation in various spheres of a society;**
- 2. A significant decrease in the social status of the Russian population; and**

1. After the collapse of USSR the state government of Kazakhstan is strongly promoting the Kazakh nationalism policy and actively accepting foreign Kazakh from the former USSR territory and China etc. as its new citizens.

2. Under the gradually strengthening various pressures to Russian population from the majority side, i.e. Kazakh, in the Kazakhstan society they feel uncomfortable about their daily life and are not be able to find their good future in life. Due to this they have been emigrating more and more to Russian Federation even in the present days.

³In Soviet period, from demographical point of view, Russian population was also a minority in 14 former Soviet Socialist Republics excluding the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. Nevertheless, owing to the existence of the strong federative state frame of Soviet Union, where Russians were the majority, they had gained substantial social domination and maintained their social advantages even when they were considered to be a minority in some regions. As a result of the disappearance of USSR the Russians have lost their social domination and advantages in the new independent countries except Russian Federation and become one of the minor nationalities there.

3. A tendency to disregard representatives of minorities other than the Russian population.

There is no doubt, that in consequence of these changes, the representatives of national minorities, unlike Russians, cannot rely on serious political support (for instance, political or diplomatic pressure from the Russian Federation's side), so they take an even weaker position in the society.

The cardinal changes of status of Russian and local national populations also have led to the following serious changes in language hierarchy in these Central Asian countries.

- 1. Giving language of the title nation the status of being a state language and actual realization of the given policy;**
- 2. Change of Russian language into the minor status; and**
- 3. Status decline of languages of national minorities in relation to the state and Russian languages.**

Languages of the title nations in the given countries had no legal status as a state language until the end of the Soviet period, but this status of title languages became legislatively fixed during the process of creation of new independent countries and the strengthening of national identity. As a result of that, Russian has lost the position of paramount language in the majority of the Soviet Union and legally became one of the ordinary foreign languages⁴.

Table 3: State languages and official languages in the Central Asian Countries

	Countries	State language	Official language
1	Kazakhstan	Kazakh language	Russian

⁴While it is true that the social functions of the Russian language has been reducing gradually in the central Asia, it does not mean its practicability and steady roles have been lost as a communication language between different nationalities, especially minorities.

2	Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz language	Russian
3	Uzbekistan	Uzbek language	None
4	Tajikistan	Tajik language	None
5	Turkmenistan	Turkmen language	None

As noted in Table 3, Russian has been given legal status only in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan among the Central Asian countries⁵. The constitution of Kazakhstan states that Russian can be officially used on the same level with the Kazakh language in state organizations and institutions of local management. In Kyrgyzstan Russian was given the status of official language.

Languages of national minorities, except for Russian, have extremely narrow functional scope in these countries and basically they are used as a source of communication among representatives of one nationality. Thus, these languages carry out only functions of preservation of identity and of being an accessory to the given nationality; even if the status of one of these languages were lifted up, it would remain in third after the state language and Russian. In addition to that, as a result of the growing popularity of such foreign languages as English and Chinese, the status of minority languages has become even more tenuous. A burden thus

⁵There are not clear and strict explanations on differences between state language and official language in the state constitutions of both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The state language and official language officially can be used in the fields of administration, judiciary and legislation. However, it is no doubt that there exists some kind of hierarchy, where the state languages (Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages) dominate more significant social and regal status than official language (Russian). In our opinion, the state language is a great symbol of the union of national and state, and it should be used in all spheres of the country including politics, economics, military affairs, IT, science, education, culture, art and so on. On the other hand, the official language is very important like state language, but secondary in terms of authority and loyalty over people.

In the current circumstances of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan the realities of state and official languages don't agree with the language functions provided by law. We believe that the functional power of the Russian language has become weak, but is still maintained on the definite level even now. Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages are in the process of being established and substantiated as real state language, which is able to thoroughly play the role of standard language (standardization process of the Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages).

falls on representatives of minorities to overcome such academic and psychological pressures as studying Russian and the state language – that is a necessary condition for realization of their career in these countries.

3 Results of our research of the language consciousness of Kyrgyz youth

Now, when more than 15 years have passed after the disintegration of the USSR, how is Russian perceived among the populations of Central Asian countries, especially by youth?

After the sensation around the sharp and unnatural “withdrawal from Russia” has ceased, it may be possible to speculate that Russian gradually will find new corresponding positions in the given region.

In the autumn of 2005, we administered a social and linguistic questionnaire concerning the Russian language to 396 university student-respondents in Bishkek, Karakol and Osh cities in Kyrgyzstan⁶. As a result of this research, the following three tendencies emerged⁷.

The first tendency is an arrangement of language hierarchy where the preeminent place is given to the state language. For the question, “Tell us three languages which you think are most useful for the population of your country in order of importance,” the responses were clearly ordered. The Kyrgyz language was perceived as the most useful by 222 (60.2%) of the 369 respondents. Russian was chosen as the second most useful by 219 (59.3%), and English was in third place

⁶In the process of doing questionnaire survey in Kyrgyzstan we got various warm supports of Prof. Hironori Ito, who is the Head of the department of oriental studies of Kyrgyz State University, and Mr. Shinya Sunami, who is a senior lecturer of Kyrgyz State University.

⁷Of course, it is necessary to handle very carefully the data of our questionnaire results and not to generalize them without much thought. However, it seems that our data shows several tendencies. They indicate to a certain extent our informants' consciousness, which is concerned with the state, official and other languages in Kyrgyzstan, and which exists on their social background. In a certain sense each data of the survey in each university has numerical big limitation, nevertheless they showed the same tendencies as a whole. Cf. our material in the end of given article “The Results of our Research on Language consciousness of Kyrgyz Youth”.

according to 233 respondents (63.1%). For the question, “In the future will it be possible to live in your country without knowing the state language, i.e. the Kyrgyz language?” the most common answer was “impossible” at 56.9% (210/369). As our research has shown, even now there is a certain understanding that the knowledge of only one official language, i.e. Russian, will not allow a person to live in the given country.

Table 4: Language and Usefulness

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russian	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	222 (60.2%)	116 (31.4%)	22 (6.0%)	9 (2.4%)	369 (100%)
2nd place	58 (15.7%)	219 (59.4%)	71 (19.2%)	21 (5.7%)	369 (100%)
3rd place	23 (6.2%)	18 (4.9%)	233 (63.1%)	95 (25.8%)	369 (100%)

The aforementioned three languages have their own functions. The state language represents the language used in various spheres (official and non-official) of the society. The Russian language, being the language of interethnic communication in the post-Soviet territory, has carried out also functions of an auxiliary language of the state language in the transitional period. English, in turn, acts as the language of the international dialogue necessary for activity in the world arena.

Furthermore, the second tendency shown by our investigation is the presence of a certain trust in Kyrgyzstan toward Russia and Russian language. For the question, “Tell us your attitude toward Russia,” and “How big is the significance of Russia for your country?”, responses were on a 5-point Likert scale anchored by “very good” and “very bad”. For the first question, positive responses (“very good” and “good”) were 89.2% (329/369), and for the second question, positive responses (“very big” and “big”) were 71.8% (265/369). And for the question, “Will the Russian language also be popular in your country 10 years from now?” and “20 years from now?”, the following responses were given: for the first ques-

tion, “Yes” was 69.4% (256/369), and for the second question, “Yes” was 46.1% (170/369). For the respondents in this research, Russia is still now in limbo, neither their own country nor a completely separate country. Hence, Russian has firm support in this region, and the functional scope of Russian has not yet been lost.

The third tendency is that besides representatives of the title nation, that is Kyrgyz, both the Russian population and representatives of other national minorities realize the value of their state language and, despite differences in the level of acquisition of it, they show a desire to learn the state language, Kyrgyz. 90.5% (38/42) of respondents from national minorities answered that they have at least some knowledge of the Kyrgyz language. Even Russian students' answers on this question were 75% (12/16). In our opinion, during the Soviet period a similar phenomenon among the Russian population of the republic would have not been observed. Thus we can say that, due to the coming ubiquitousness of the state language (Kyrgyz), despite personal sympathies or antipathies to it, members of the Russian diaspora realize that without knowledge of the state language of the country it is impossible to be considered a real citizen. The result of our research has shown that consciousness of young Kyrgyz people.

Table 5: Kyrgyz proficiency level of Russian respondents and other national minorities respondents (Self-evaluation)

	Acquisition Level	Nations
1	None	Russian (4)
2	Beginner's Level	Kalmyk (1) Korean (1) Russian (7) Tatar (3) Turkmen (1) Uzbek (1) Uighur (2)
3	Intermediate Level	Dungan (1) Kazakh (3) Russian (5) Tatar (2) Turkmen (3)

		Uighur (3)
4	Advanced Level	Kalmyk (1) Tatar (2) Uzbek (2)
5	Native Level	Kazakh (1)
Total		42

Although Russian has social, political, and legal bases as an official language in the given country, with strengthening and widening nationalism of the title nation and its linguistic nationalism and strong language policy of the government, the scope of the Russian language continues to decline. Today in Kyrgyzstan the Russian language will not be able to maintain its prestige language status from the Soviet period. Nevertheless, it will continue to have the real status of being a necessary language in the Kyrgyz community, i.e., still an official language, Russian will carry out certain social functions as the first auxiliary language of the state language (Kyrgyz), concerning the establishment of new communications with Russia in such areas as policy, economy, diplomacy and science.

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The Results of our Research on Language consciousness of Kyrgyz Youth

Period of the Research: From September to October, 2005

Place: Bishkek, Karakol and Osh Cities

Respondents: University students (Humanities and Social Sciences)

	University Name	City Name	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Kyrgyz University for the Humanities	Bishkek	112 (m.19, f.93)	30.4%
2	I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University	Bishkek	74 (m.17, f.57)	20.1%
3	Zh. Balasagyn Kyrgyz State National University	Bishkek	73 (m.17, f.56)	19.8%
4	Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University	Bishkek	20 (m.3, f.17)	5.4%
5	Issyk-Kul State University	Karakol	57 (m.8, f.49)	15.4%
6	Issyk-Kul State University	Osh	33 (m.3, f.30)	8.9%
Total			369 (m.67, f.302)	100% (m.18.2%, f.81.8%)

Question 1: Tell us three languages, which you think are most useful for the population of your country in order of importance.

The results of answers, gained from all respondents in the Question 1

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russia	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	222 (60.2%)	116 (31.4%)	22 (6.0%)	9 (2.4%)	369 (100%)
2nd place	58 (15.7%)	219 (59.3%)	71 (19.2%)	21 (5.7%)	369 (100%)
3rd place	23 (6.2%)	18 (4.9%)	233 (63.1%)	95 (25.8%)	369 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz University for the Humanities in the Question 1

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russia	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	68 (60.7%)	39 (34.8%)	4 (3.6%)	1 (0.9%)	112 (100%)
2nd place	16 (14.3%)	66 (58.9%)	25 (22.3%)	5 (4.5%)	112 (100%)
3rd place	7 (6.3%)	3 (2.7%)	69 (61.6%)	33 (29.4%)	112 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the I. Arbaev Kyrgyz State University in the Question 1

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russia	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	45 (60.8%)	22 (29.7%)	3 (4.1%)	4 (5.4%)	74 (100%)
2nd place	10 (13.5%)	46 (62.2%)	13 (17.6%)	5 (6.7%)	74 (100%)
3rd place	5 (6.7%)	1 (1.4%)	50 (67.6%)	18 (24.3%)	74 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Zh. Balasagyn Kyrgyz State National University in the Question 1

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russia	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	50 (68.5%)	17 (23.3%)	6 (8.2%)	0 (0%)	73 (100%)
2nd place	12 (16.4%)	47 (64.4%)	12 (16.4%)	2 (2.7%)	73 (100%)
3rd place	5 (6.8%)	6 (8.2%)	50 (68.5%)	12 (16.4%)	73 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in the Question 1

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russia	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	13 (65%)	5 (25%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)	20 (100%)
2nd place	2 (10%)	12 (60%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	20 (100%)
3rd place	0 (0%)	3 (15%)	12 (60%)	5 (25%)	20 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Issyk-Kul State University in the Question 1

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russia	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	35 (61.4%)	15 (26.3%)	3 (5.3%)	4 (7.0%)	57 (100%)
2nd place	11 (19.3%)	35 (61.4%)	7 (12.3%)	4 (7.0%)	57 (100%)
3rd place	3 (5.3%)	3 (5.3%)	40 (70.1%)	11 (19.3%)	57 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Osh State University in the Question 1

Usefulness	Kyrgyz	Russia	English	Other languages etc.	Total
1st place	11 (33.3%)	18 (54.5%)	4 (12.1%)	0 (0%)	33 (100%)
2nd place	7 (21.2%)	13 (39.4%)	10 (30.3%)	0 (0%)	33 (100%)
3rd place	3 (9.1%)	2 (6.1%)	12 (36.4%)	16 (48.5%)	33 (100%)

Question 2: In the future will it be possible to live in your country without knowing the state language, i.e. the Kyrgyz language?

The results of answers, gained from all respondents in the Question 2

Impossible	Possible	Other answers	No answer	Total
210 (56.9%)	107 (29.0%)	28 (7.6%)	24 (6.5%)	369 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz University for the Humanities in the Question 2

Impossible	Possible	Other answers	No answer	Total
53 (47.3%)	35 (31.3%)	15 (13.4%)	9 (8.0%)	112 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University in the Question 2

Impossible	Possible	Other answers	No answer	Total
41 (55.4%)	20 (27.0%)	6 (8.1%)	7 (9.5%)	74 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Zh. Balasagyn Kyrgyz State National University in the Question 2

Impossible	Possible	Other answers	No answer	Total
45 (61.6%)	22 (30.1%)	3 (4.1%)	3 (4.1%)	73 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in the Question 2

Impossible	Possible	Other answers	No answer	Total
7 (35%)	12 (60%)	0 (0%)	1 (5%)	20 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Issyk-Kul State University in the Question 2

Impossible	Possible	Other answers	No answer	Total
44 (77.2%)	8 (14.0%)	2 (3.5%)	3 (5.3%)	57 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Osh State University in the Question 2

Impossible	Possible	Other answers	No answer	Total
20 (60.6%)	10 (30.3%)	2 (6.1%)	1 (3.0%)	33 (100%)

Question 3: Tell us your attitude toward Russia.

The results of answers, gained from all respondents in the Question 3

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
123 (33.3%)	206 (55.8%)	34 (9.2%)	3 (0.8%)	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.5%)	369 (100%)
329 (89.2%)			4 (1.1%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz University for the Humanities in the Question 3

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
41 (36.6%)	57 (50.9%)	13 (11.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.9%)	112 (100%)
98 (87.5%)			0 (0%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University in the Question 3

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
22 (29.7%)	44 (59.5%)	7 (9.5%)	1 (1.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	74 (100%)
66 (89.2%)			1 (1.4%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Zh. Balasagyn Kyrgyz State National University in the Question 3

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
21 (28.8%)	43 (58.9%)	8 (11.0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.4%)	0 (0%)	73 (100%)
64 (87.7%)			1 (1.4%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in the Question 3

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
11 (55%)	9 (45%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	20 (100%)
20 (100%)			0 (0%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Issyk-Kul State University in the Question 3

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
17 (29.8%)	33 (57.9%)	4 (7.0%)	2 (3.5%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.8%)	57 (100%)
50 (87.7%)			2 (3.5%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Osh State University in the Question 3

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
11 (33.3%)	20 (60.6%)	2 (6.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	33 (100%)
31 (93.9%)			0 (0%)			

Question 4: How big is the significance of Russia for your country?

The results of answers, gained from all respondents in the Question 4

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
74 (20.1%)	191 (51.8%)	70 (19.0%)	25 (6.8%)	2 (0.5%)	7 (1.9%)	369 (100%)
265 (71.8%)			27 (7.3%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz University for the Humanities in the Question 4

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
18 (16.1%)	65 (58.0%)	18 (16.1%)	9 (8.0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.9%)	112 (100%)
83 (74.1%)			9 (8.0%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University in the Question 4

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
10 (13.5%)	40 (54.1%)	17 (23.0%)	6 (8.1%)	1 (1.4%)	0人 (0%)	74 (100%)
50 (67.6%)			7 (9.5%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Zh. Balasagyn Kyrgyz State National University in the Question 4

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
18 (24.7%)	38 (52.1%)	9 (12.3%)	7 (9.6%)	1 (1.4%)	0 (0%)	73 (100%)
56 (76.7%)			8 (11.0%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in the Question 4

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
11 (55%)	9 (45%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	20 (100%)
20 (100%)			0 (0%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Issyk-Kul State University in the Question 4

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
6 (10.5%)	28 (49.1%)	15 (26.3%)	3 (5.3%)	0 (0%)	5 (8.8%)	57 (100%)
34 (59.6%)			3 (5.3%)			

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Osh State University in the Question 4

Very good	Good	Neutral	Bad	Very bad	No answer	Total
11 (33.3%)	11 (33.3%)	11 (33.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	33 (100%)
22 (66.7%)			0 (0%)			

Question 5: Will the Russian language also be popular in your country 10 years from now?

The results of answers, gained from all respondents in the Question 5

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
256 (69.4%)	42 (11.4%)	60 (16.3%)	11 (3.0%)	369 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz University for the Humanities in the Question 5

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
88 (78.6%)	10 (8.9%)	12 (10.7%)	2 (1.8%)	112 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the I. Arbaev Kyrgyz State University in the Question 5

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
44 (59.5%)	11 (14.9%)	15 (20.3%)	4 (5.4%)	74 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Zh. Balasagyn Kyrgyz State National University in the Question 5

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
53 (72.6%)	8 (11.0%)	10 (13.7%)	2 (2.7%)	73 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in the Question 5

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
14 (70%)	4 (20%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	20 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Issyk-Kul State University in the Question 5

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
35 (61.4%)	3 (5.3%)	17 (29.8%)	2 (3.5%)	57 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Osh State University in the Question 5

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
22 (66.7%)	6 (18.2%)	5 (15.2%)	0 (0%)	33 (100%)

Question 6: Will the Russian language also be popular in your country 20 years from now?

The results of answers, gained from all respondents in the Question 6

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
170 (46.1%)	47 (12.7%)	118 (32.0%)	34 (9.2%)	369 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz University for the Humanities in the Question 6

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
53 (47.3%)	16 (14.3%)	30 (26.8%)	13 (11.6%)	112 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University in the Question 6

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
31 (41.9%)	10 (13.5%)	25 (33.8%)	8 (10.8%)	74 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Zh. Balasagyn Kyrgyz State National University in the Question 6

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
32 (43.8%)	10 (13.7%)	24 (32.9%)	7 (9.6%)	73 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in the Question 6

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
11 (55%)	5 (25%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)	20 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Issyk-Kul State University in the Question 6

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
25 (43.9%)	3 (5.3%)	25 (43.9%)	4 (7.0%)	57 (100%)

The results of answers, gained from respondents of the Osh State University in the Question 6

Popular	Not popular	Other answers	No answer	Total
18 (54.5%)	3 (9.1%)	11 (33.3%)	1 (3.0%)	33 (100%)

Kyrgyz proficiency level of Russian respondents and other national minorities respondents (Self-evaluation)

	Acquisition Level	Nations	
1	None	Russian (4)	m.1, f.3
2	Beginner's Level	Kalmyk (1)	m.0, f.1
		Korean (1)	m.0, f.1
		Russian (7)	m.0, f.7
		Tatar (3)	m.0, f.3
		Turkmen (1)	m.0, f.1
		Uzbek (1)	m.0, f.1
		Uighur (2)	m.0, f.2
3	Intermediate Level	Dungan (1)	m.0, f.1
		Kazakh (3)	m.0, f.3
		Russian (5)	m.3, f.2
		Tatar (2)	m.1, f.1
		Turkmen (3)	m.2, f.1
		Uighur (3)	m.0, f.3
4	Advanced Level	Kalmyk (1)	m.0, f.1
		Tatar (2)	m.0, f.2
		Uzbek (2)	m.1, f.1
5	Native Level	Kazakh (1)	m.0, f.1
Total		42	